

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN.BEN>](mailto:Ben.Washburn@FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN.BEN)  
To:  
CC:  
Date: 6/3/2014 3:52:37 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 6/3/14

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## OPA Daily Digest for 6/3/14

### Congressional Inquiries:

**Sen. Claire McCaskill** (Mo.) – Letter – 5/2/14: Constituent concerns about the Strecker Forest/Bliss Ellisville site removal action. Due: 5/16/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

### State Government Inquiries:

None

### Press Inquiries:

**Wall Street Journal** – John Emshwiller – 5/6/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

**Associated Press, Kansas City** - Maria Fisher – 6/2/14: Follow-up questions regarding National Zinc site in Cherryvale, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

**Kansas City Star** – Steve Everly – 6/2/14: Questions regarding carbon emissions announcement. Referred to headquarters press office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

**Des Moines Register** – Donnelle Eller - 6/2/14: Questions regarding carbon emissions announcement. Referred to headquarters press office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

**St. Louis Public Radio** – Veronique LeCapra – 6/2/14: Questions regarding carbon emissions announcement. Referred to headquarters press office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch** – Jacob Barker – 6/2/14: Questions regarding carbon emissions announcement. Referred to headquarters press office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

**Pitch Weekly, Kansas City** – Steve Vockrodt – 6/2/14: Questions about Kansas City International Airport's NPDES permit. Referred to Missouri DNR, which issued the permit. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KMOV Channel 4, St. Louis** – Russell Kinsaul – 6/2/14: Questions about Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster's FOIA request to EPA Region 7 for records related to sampling of haul routes around West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KMOX Radio, St. Louis** – Kevin Killeen – 6/2/14: Questions about Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster's FOIA request to EPA Region 7 for records related to sampling of haul routes around West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KSDK Channel 4, St. Louis** – Casey Nolen – 6/2/14: Questions about detected release of benzene at Bridgeton Landfill by Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Referred to MDNR. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

## **Environmental Stories:**

**KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Cancer-causing gas detected at Bridgeton Landfill** - 6/3/14 - Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster filed an injunction Monday asking for more aggressive monitoring of the Bridgeton Landfill after benzene gas was detected Saturday. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/health/2014/06/02/benzene-gas-bridgeton-landfill/9884227/>

**KMOX Radio - Koster to File Freedom of Information Act Request for EPA Data** - 6/3/14 - Missouri's Attorney General is stepping up the pressure for the EPA to test some Bridgeton roads for possible radioactive contamination. Koster says the EPA has a bad track record on its claims to know where the radioactive waste actually lies, and he thinks the community has a right to know. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/06/03/koster-to-file-freedom-of-information-act-request-for-epa-data/>

**KTVI Ch. 2 St. Louis - Koster goes to court for more air monitoring at Bridgeton landfill** - 6/2/14 - Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster is taking new steps in court over the controversial West Lake Landfill after his office said a weekend test detected elevated levels of benzene at the Bridgeton site. <http://fox2now.com/2014/06/02/koster-goes-to-court-for-more-air-monitoring-at-bridgeton-landfill/>

**Kansas Public Radio - EPA proposes carbon reduction plan for existing power plants | Effects on Kansas utilities not clear yet** - 6/3/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency has announced a plan to reduce carbon emissions from existing power plants nationwide. The agency's proposal leaves it up to the states to decide how best to meet the goals set by the plan. <http://www.khi.org/news/2014/jun/02/epa-proposes-carbon-reduction-plan-existing-power-/>

**Omaha World-Herald - EPA rules on power plants' carbon emissions create anxiety** - 6/3/14 - Electric utilities in Nebraska and Iowa will be reading carefully through the hundreds of pages of groundbreaking new rules aimed at cutting the carbon pollution of existing power plants. [http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/epa-rules-on-power-plants-carbon-emissions-create-anxiety/article\\_5715675a-ea75-11e3-8cae-0017a43b2370.html](http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/epa-rules-on-power-plants-carbon-emissions-create-anxiety/article_5715675a-ea75-11e3-8cae-0017a43b2370.html)

**Associated Press (Des Moines) - Carbon rules likely mean higher Iowa power bills** - 6/3/14 - The Obama administration's ambitious plan to cut carbon dioxide emissions from power plants will likely lead to higher electric bills in Iowa, but drastic changes may not be needed because the state's utilities have invested heavily in wind power. <http://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Carbon-rules-likely-mean-higher-iowa-power-bills-5522305.php>

**Des Moines Register - EPA's emissions plan is easier on Iowa** - 6/3/14 - Iowa power plants would be required to cut carbon emissions 16 percent by 2030, a lower burden than the national average because of the state's investment in renewable energy development and energy efficiency, under a proposed rule from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2014/06/03/emissions-plan-easier-iowa/9899447/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

**Des Moines Register - Grassley: Iowa, nation need more time to comment on EPA standard** - 6/2/14 - U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said Iowans need more time to comment on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule that existing U.S. power plants cut carbon emissions 30 percent by 2030. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/development/2014/06/02/iowa-politicians-comment-on-epa-standard/9868687/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

**St. Louis Public Radio - New Carbon Dioxide Limits Could Mean Big Changes For Coal-Powered States Like Missouri, Illinois** - 6/2/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed the first-ever rules to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The proposal sparked immediate debate over the impact, especially in states

such as Missouri that depend heavily on coal. <http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/new-carbon-dioxide-limits-could-mean-big-changes-coal-powered-states-missouri-illinois>

**Kansas City Star - New carbon emissions rules provide flexibility in Missouri, Kansas** - 6/3/14 - The federal government's ambitious and politically charged plan to slash carbon emissions that cause global warming has given a bit of a break to Missouri and Kansas. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/06/02/5062755/new-carbon-emissions-rules-provide.html>

**Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - EPA: Nebraska must reduce carbon emissions by 26 percent** - 6/3/14 - Nebraska will have to reduce its carbon emissions by about 26 percent by 2030 under a plan proposed Monday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [http://journalstar.com/news/local/epa-nebraska-must-reduce-carbon-emissions-by-by/article\\_a2d98766-0541-5192-84d1-08172419ea26.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/epa-nebraska-must-reduce-carbon-emissions-by-by/article_a2d98766-0541-5192-84d1-08172419ea26.html)

**Topeka Capitol-Journal (Kan.) - Kansas politicians light fuse under EPA power plant emission rules** - 6/2/14 - Republicans representing Kansas in Topeka and Washington, D.C., denounced Monday proposed regulations aimed at reducing carbon emissions from power plants by nearly one-third in 2030 in a campaign to moderate pollution blamed for global warming. <http://cjonline.com/news/2014-06-02/kansas-politicians-light-fuse-under-epa-power-plant-emission-rules>

**KSCB News (Liberal, Kan.) - Sunflower Electric Get Go Ahead To Build In Holcomb** - 5/30/14 - A state regulator has given the go-ahead again for the construction of a \$2.8 billion coal-fired power plant in southwest Kansas. <http://www.kscbnews.net/news/?nk=37304>

**Financial Post - Terence Corcoran: The Obama coal carbon plan flies in the face of global trends** - 6/3/14 - The new EPA plan to reduce U.S. carbon-dioxide emissions is being hailed by environmental activists and green industry lobbyists as "momentous," "historic," "the most important in history," "a critical step," a triumph for President Obama and, by Mother Jones magazine, as a "really big deal." All of which is a sure sign EPS's 650-page rhetoric-filled plan to force a 30% reduction in carbon emissions from power plants is a really bad deal. <http://business.financialpost.com/2014/06/03/obama-coal-carbon/>

**Huffington Post - Future Of New EPA Power Plant Rules Depends On The States** - 6/2/14 - Now that the Environmental Protection Agency has unveiled new standards for emissions from power plants, responsibility will fall to the states to come up with their own plans to reduce planet-warming emissions. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/02/epa-carbon-rules\\_n\\_5434106.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/02/epa-carbon-rules_n_5434106.html)

**Joplin Globe - Our View: Get tough with Tyson** - 6/2/14 - The complete kill along 4.5 miles of Clear Creek this week demands an aggressive response from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and more answers from Tyson Foods than the company has provided so far. <http://www.joplinglobe.com/editorial/x1396872754/Our-View-Get-tough-with-Tyson>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - McConnell introduces bill to thwart Obama plan to reduce emissions from power plants** - 6/3/14 - The Republicans have introduced legislation - the "Coal Country Protection Act" - to thwart the Obama administration's plans to reduce carbon emissions at the nation's power plants by 30 percent by 2030. [http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/gateway-to-dc/mcconnell-introduces-bill-to-thwart-obama-plan-to-reduce-emissions/article\\_14e8fc05-8cad-5b22-8169-a4d0adafd9b3.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/gateway-to-dc/mcconnell-introduces-bill-to-thwart-obama-plan-to-reduce-emissions/article_14e8fc05-8cad-5b22-8169-a4d0adafd9b3.html)

**Iowa Public Radio - New EPA Rules Burn Red State Democrats** - 6/2/14 - While many on the left embraced the Environmental Protection Agency's new rules to reduce coal-burning power plant carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030, some red state Democrats couldn't put enough distance between themselves and the Obama administration. <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/new-epa-rules-burn-red-state-democrats>

**Springfield News-Leader (Mo.) - Effect of EPA pollution rules on CU uncertain** - 6/3/14 - City Utilities responded cautiously to news the Obama administration plans to cut power plant carbon emissions 30 percent — uncertain of the impact of the proposal. Yet one CU official is already warning of increased costs. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/ozarks/2014/06/02/effect-epa-pollution-rules-cu-uncertain/9884799/>

**Springfield News-Leader (Mo.) - New EPA rules could force big changes in Missouri** - 6/2/14 - Missouri would have to significantly reduce its carbon emissions over the next 16 years under a proposal the Obama administration unveiled Monday to combat global warming. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/local/missouri/2014/06/02/new-epa-rules-force-big-changes-missouri/9886701/>

**KOLR Ch. 10 News - City Utilities Awaits State Action in EPA's Carbon Cutting Plan** - 6/3/14 - New regulations released by EPA Monday look to slash CO2 emissions 30 percent nationwide by 2030. State Representative Lincoln Hough riffing on a statement from Senator Roy Blunt. "Standing up to what is an egregious over reach in my opinion from the EPA and the administration," says Hough. "When you're talking about a state like Missouri, 80 percent of our electricity productions come from coal."  
<http://www.ozarksfirst.com/story/d/story/city-utilities-awaits-state-action-in-epas-carbon/15005/BglyRgMkjkG8CzvY9fSWfw>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - EPA proposes Mo. power plants to cut carbon emissions by 21 percent** - 6/3/14 - Missouri power plants won't face as sharp a percentage decline as other states under the EPA's plan, which sets different targets for every state depending on its energy mix. [http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/epa-proposes-mo-power-plants-to-cut-carbon-emissions-by/article\\_23c71b43-0574-58ff-bb44-5a115ef366cc.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/epa-proposes-mo-power-plants-to-cut-carbon-emissions-by/article_23c71b43-0574-58ff-bb44-5a115ef366cc.html)

**Associated Press, Jefferson City, Mo. - EPA Seeks 21 Percent Emission Drop in Missouri** - 6/3/14 - To meet newly proposed federal standards, Missouri would need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by more than one-fifth by 2030—a less aggressive target than set for many states, but still too burdensome in the view state Republican officials. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/06/03/epa-seeks-21-percent-emission-drop-in-missouri/>

**Lake News Online (Mo.) - EPA inspection reveals violations of Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule by Sedalia, Mo. company** - 6/2/14 - A Sedalia, Mo. home remodeling company has agreed to pay a \$9,548 civil penalty to settle allegations that it violated the federal Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule of the Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.lakenewsonline.com/article/20140602/News/140609832>

**KSN Ch. 3 Wichita, Kan. - What new EPA regulations could mean for Kansas coal** - 6/2/14 - Now that the Environmental Protection Agency is limiting how much carbon pollution coal-burning power plants can create, KSN looked into how the Sunflower Electric coal plant expansion in Holcomb may be affected. <http://ksn.com/2014/06/02/epa-plans-to-cut-emissions/>

**Garden City Telegram (Kan.) – EPA Proposes New Emissions Standard** - 6/3/14 - Days after Sunflower Electric Power Corp. cleared regulatory hurdles that had been stymying construction of a new, \$2.8 billion coal-fired power plant at Holcomb for years, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed new rules that would require states to substantially cut carbon dioxide emissions. - See more at: <http://gctelegram.com/news/Reaction-to-Proposal-06-03-2014>

**KSN Ch. 3 Wichita, Kan - Contaminated water area bigger than first thought** - 6/2/14 - A Wichita neighborhood already plagued with contaminated well water finds out the affected area is bigger than first thought. <http://ksn.com/2014/06/02/contaminated-water-area-bigger-than-first-thought/>

**Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Plan calls for city to pull water from Missouri River** - 6/1/14 - Lincoln should develop a new city water supply from the Missouri River in order to meet demands in 50 years, according to a new water master plan. [http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/plan-calls-for-city-to-pull-water-from-missouri-river/article\\_b900688a-c677-53d1-adaa-c61a3bfaaf6.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/plan-calls-for-city-to-pull-water-from-missouri-river/article_b900688a-c677-53d1-adaa-c61a3bfaaf6.html)

**Nebraska Watchdog - Coal may not be king in Nebraska, but it fuels much of electricity** - 6/3/14 - Nebraska may not have any coal mines, but coal fuels about two-thirds of the electricity produced in Nebraska, enabling the state's utilities to charge some of the lowest rates in the nation. New EPA rules could change that, opponents say. <http://watchdog.org/147996/coal-epa-nebraska/?roi=echo3-20764234596-20200222-ce61f0e7a38efcd5fe566911beec5f36>

**Associated Press - Lincoln well field near Missouri River proposed** - 6/2/14 - A long-term master plan for supplying Lincoln with water 50 years from now suggests the city develop a well field near the Missouri River more than 40 miles away. [http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/lincoln-well-field-near-missouri-river-proposed/article\\_b0924c93-c666-5057-a84e-80f51d329d64.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/lincoln-well-field-near-missouri-river-proposed/article_b0924c93-c666-5057-a84e-80f51d329d64.html)

**Kansas City Star - Capturing every drop: Russell, Kan., learns to live with drought** - 6/1/14 - Many of the 4,500 people of this central Kansas town are taking showers with buckets at their feet to refresh parched plants outside. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/06/01/5060818/capturing-every-drop-russell-kan.html>

**New York Times - Democrats in Coal Country Run From E.P.A.** - 6/3/14 - Republicans quickly seized on the fact that coal provides the majority of electricity in half a dozen

states with hard-fought Senate races: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kentucky, Montana and West Virginia. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/us/carbon-plan-puts-democrats-in-coal-states-on-the-defensive.html>

**Fierce Energy - 11th hour pressure on EPA's proposed GHG rule too little, too late** - 6/2/14 - In advance of the Monday, June 2 release of the U.S. EPA rule on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from existing fossil fuel plants, state legislators on Friday descended on Capitol Hill to express their concerns. "The EPA, without the consent of Congress, is systematically setting national energy policy through regulations that will alter our energy and economic trajectory for decades to come," said State Senator Jim Smith (R-NE). <http://www.fierceenergy.com/story/11th-hour-pressure-epas-proposed-ghg-rule-too-little-too-late/2014-06-02>

**New York Times - Taking Page From Health Care Act, Obama Climate Plan Relies on States (+video)** - 6/2/14 - President Obama's new plan to fight climate change depends heavily on states' devising individual approaches to meeting goals set in the nation's capital, a strategy similar to the one he used to expand health care, often with rocky results. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/us/politics/obama-epa-rule-coal-carbon-pollution-power-plants.html>

**Town Hall - Some Things to Know About Obama's New EPA Regulations** - 6/2/14 - Today the Obama administration announced new regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency with a goal of reducing carbon emissions over the next 15 years. <http://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2014/06/02/what-you-need-to-know-about-obamas-new-epa-regulations-n1846510>

**Associated Press, Topeka, Kan. - Kansas utilities worry EPA rule will raise costs** - 6/3/14 - Two Kansas utilities say they're worried that the federal government's new rule for curbing carbon emissions from power plants will raise costs for consumers. <http://www.kshb.com/money/consumer/kansas-utilities-worry-epa-rule-will-raise-costs>

**MarketWatch - The war on coal is already over, Mr. President** - 6/2/14 - But the war on coal already happened — coal lost. And for a reason that should make conservatives happy: They drilled, baby, and it worked, beginning years before Sarah Palin popularized “drill baby drill” in 2008. <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-war-on-coal-is-already-over-mr-president-2014-06-02>

**Washington Business Journal (D.C.) - 5 ways the EPA's power plant rule will affect business** - 6/2/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to cut carbon emissions at existing power plants could raise electricity prices and drive U.S. manufacturers to countries that don't mind dirty coal. <http://www.bizjournals.com/bizjournals/washingtonbureau/2014/06/5-ways-the-epas-power-plant-rule-will-affect.html>

**Washington Post - Coal companies have bigger problems than the Obama administration** - 6/3/14 - You might expect the stocks of these companies to have sunk on the news of the Obama administration's proposal. But the rules were widely expected, and the changing structure of the energy sector has long been a more serious worry for coal investors. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/06/03/coal-companies-have-bigger-problems-than-the-obama-administration/>

**Huffington Post (blog) - Kudos to the White House and EPA on the New Climate Regulations** - 6/3/14 - Kudos to President Obama and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy on a true breakthrough in climate policy yesterday! The newly proposed EPA rules on CO2 emissions from power plants represent a breakthrough not only in the US Government ambition to halt climate change, but also a breakthrough in the methods used to do so. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeffrey-sachs/kudos-to-the-white-house\\_b\\_5436870.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeffrey-sachs/kudos-to-the-white-house_b_5436870.html)

**BusinessWeek - The Phony War on Obama's Plan to Curtail Coal-Fired Power** - 6/3/14 - Business interests are up in arms over President Barack Obama's plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency proposal released Monday calls for reductions in carbon dioxide pollutants of 30 percent by 2030, based on 2005 levels. The goal: slow climate change while reducing death and illness related to terrestrial air contamination. <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-06-03/the-truth-about-obamas-plan-to-curtail-coal-power>

**Christian Science Monitor - EPA proposes big emissions cuts: Would the climate even notice? (+video)** - 6/2/14 - The EPA wants power plants to cut back their carbon emissions. By itself, the plan wouldn't affect climate change much, but it could be crucial to a broader global plan that would. <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2014/0602/EPA-proposes-big-emissions-cuts-Would-the-climate-even-notice-video>

**CNN - With carbon limits, Obama creates drama for Democrats (video)** - 6/2/14 - President Barack Obama's aggressive new proposal to dramatically limit carbon pollution is a

policy priority that he hopes will help shape his legacy. But a policy step that Obama considers good for the country and his presidency may be bad for certain Democrats in tight election battles this year. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/02/politics/politics-of-carbon/>

**ClimateProgress - Kansas Approves New Coal Plant Three Days Before Power Plant Emission Rules Are Announced** - 6/2/14 - Many lawmakers and pundits have called the Environmental Protection Agency's recent actions on power plant emissions, including the rule for existing plants released today, a "war on coal." But if it is a war, Kansas, for one, is not going down without a fight. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/06/02/3443865/kansas-new-coal-plant/>

**Greenwire - Enviros, industry dig trenches for battle over final rule** - 6/2/14 - Environmentalists and industry groups are doubling down in the aftermath of today's long-awaited proposal for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from existing U.S. power plants. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060000554/>

**Greenwire - Agency watchdog touts successes in report to Congress** - 6/2/14 - U.S. EPA's inspector general (IG) touted its successes -- including its investigation into John Beale, the CIA impostor employed by the agency -- in a report released to Congress today. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060000552/>

**Greenwire - McCarthy touts flexibility for states in rule rollout** - 6/2/14 - As U.S. EPA crafted today's proposal to limit greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants, the agency was asked by environmentalists to use a model that would incorporate both "systemwide" reductions and those that can be achieved at individual plants, while industry advocates warned that such an approach would be challenged in court. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060000557/>

**Greenwire - EPA chief, industry toe to toe over predicted job losses, fuel switch** - 6/2/14 - Coal production and mine employment would decline under the Obama administration's rule proposal for controlling greenhouse gases from existing power plants, according to U.S. EPA's analysis. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060000556/>

**Greenwire - Biofuel companies find help on K Street** - 6/2/14 - Biofuel companies have brought on top-notch lobby firms as the battle over the renewable fuels standard continues in Washington, D.C. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060000547/>

**Greenwire - Studies link aircraft emissions to health woes near airports** - 6/2/14 - People who live near major airports face elevated risks of respiratory problems because of contaminants from heavy air traffic, according to a pair of studies released last week. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060000546/>

**Inside EPA - EPA Draws State, Industry Concern Over New Water Act Waivers For Farms** - 6/2/14 - The Obama administration's interpretive rule exempting more than 50 agricultural practices from Clean Water Act (CWA) dredge-and-fill permit requirements, released alongside the plan for clarifying CWA jurisdiction. <http://insideepa.com/201406022472731/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-draws-state-industry-concern-over-new-water-act-waivers-for-farms/menu-id-95.html>

## Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

**EPA Inspection Reveals Violations of Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule for Sedalia, Mo., Renovation Company** – 6/2/14 – Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

## Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

## Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**6/3/14** – Asthma Awareness Month Event, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

**6/4/14** – Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) Visit, Regional Office. Contact: Deandre Singletary, 7373

**6/5/14** – Incident Command System Training, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

**6/12/14** – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7373

**\*6/18/14** – Federal Executive Board Monthly Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**6/24-25/14** – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

**\*7/9/14** – WOTUS Events with Nancy Stoner, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**\*7/9/14** – Hinkson Creek meeting, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Shawn Grindstaff, 7274

**7/11/14** – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

**7/21-22/14** – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**\*7/23-24/14** – National Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Lynn Slugantz, 7883

**\*7/28-30/14** – National Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, Niobara, Neb. Contact: Lynn Slugantz, 7883

#### **DRA:**

**6/24-25/14** – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

**7/21-22/14** – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

#### **RA/Immediate Office**

None

#### **Other Events**

#### **AWMD**

None

#### **CNSL**

None

## **ECO/EJ**

None

## **ENSV**

None

## **PLMG**

**6/4/14** - Representatives from Policy Management and Resources Conservation and Pollution Prevention will be attending an open house at Lincoln University's Busby Certified Organic Farm, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Gregory Davis, 7208

## **RA/OPA**

**9/29-30/14** - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

## **SUPR**

**6/3/14** – Unified Government Emergency Services Planning Meeting – Kansas City, Ks. – Contact: Eric Nold, 7488

**6/11/14** – Site tour and Open House for the Former Nebraska Ordnance Plant – Mead, Neb. – Contact: Sandeep Mehta, 7763

## **WWPD**

**6/2-6/14** – Public Water Supply System Program Evaluation at Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

**6/3/14** – Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Capacity Development Program Stakeholder Group Coordination Meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Robert Dunlevy, 7798

**6/6/14** – Waters of the U.S. Interview at KMOS Studio at University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Mo. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782, David Bryan, 7433

**6/10/14** – Collaborative Workshop on Training Needs by the Missouri Rural Water Association, Ashland, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

**6/19-20/14** – Nebraska Game and Parks Field Tour, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

**6/25/14** – Providing Technical Training on the Revised Total Coliform Rule for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

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Des Moines Register

## **EPA's emissions plan is easier on Iowa**

Donnelle Eller, [deller@dmreg.com](mailto:deller@dmreg.com)  
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Iowa power plants would be required to cut carbon emissions 16 percent by 2030, a lower burden than the national average because of the state's investment in renewable energy development and energy efficiency, under a proposed rule from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Iowa has already been doing its part," said Liz Purchia, an EPA spokeswoman, said Monday. The federal agency is calling for existing U.S. power plants to reduce carbon emissions an average of 30 percent by 2030.

Still, critics and supporters have widely varying views of how the proposed federal rule will affect Iowa.

Critics say it will kill jobs, slow the economy and raise monthly utility bills. Supporters say it will help industries like farming that struggle with extreme weather, spark investment in green jobs and technology, and enable kids struggling with asthma to breathe easier.

EPA says fossil fuel-fired power plants — using coal and natural gas — are the largest source of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. Overall, power plants contribute about a third of U.S. greenhouse emissions.

Alliant Energy said it's well-positioned to meet the requirements. "We knew these carbon regulations were coming, so we've been incorporating it into our generation plan. We're at a good starting point," said Scott Reigstad, a spokesman for Alliant Energy, an investor-owned utility based in Madison, Wis., serving 1.4 million customers in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

### **Would it cost Iowa jobs?**

Seven Midwest states that include Iowa would see an annual average loss of \$3.2 billion in economic activity and 27,400 fewer jobs through 2030 from the rule, according to a report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Mark Lucas, state director of Americans for Prosperity, a conservative political advocacy group, said the rules would be "particularly burdensome in Iowa," where about 62 percent of the energy comes from coal.

Opponents lining up against the rule Monday included Gov. Terry Branstad and U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley. They said the proposal would mean fewer jobs in Iowa.

Branstad spokesman Jimmy Centers said the governor is concerned that EPA's "latest unilateral, ideological action" will "hurt Iowa consumers and cost Iowans jobs."

"First, the EPA attacked the Iowa farmer by slashing the Renewable Fuel Standard," a proposal that would reduce the amount of ethanol and biodiesel that must be blended in the nation's fuel supply, Centers said. "Now the EPA is set to mandate more government red tape that will lead to higher prices for Iowa consumers and make it more difficult to attract manufacturing jobs to our state" with higher energy costs.

Grassley was among the lawmakers and groups who successfully lobbied for longer review — 120 days from 60. "The EPA has an obligation to hear from everyone with an interest in this rule," he said. "The administration needs to understand the full impact of this regulation. Utility costs could go up for customers around the country."

### **Will it spark more investment?**

Environmentalists say reduced carbon emissions attract high-tech companies concerned about reducing their carbon footprint and spark development of green energy technology.

Iowa could see 2,500 more jobs with a standard focused on increased energy efficiency, the Natural Resources Defense Council said.

The state leads the nation in the amount of energy it gets from wind, about 27 percent of its total portfolio, according to a wind industry group.

"Wind power helped attract Google, Facebook, IBM and Microsoft, in addition to the thousands of wind power jobs in our state," said state Sen. Rob Hogg, D-Cedar Rapids. "Energy efficiency is saving Iowa consumers billions of dollars in energy costs."

Environmental Entrepreneurs, a Washington, D.C., advocacy group, said Iowa added 1,600 clean energy and energy-efficiency jobs since 2012 and will "create thousands more" with the proposed rule.

"Iowa already is a national leader in clean energy," said Troy Van Beek, founder of Ideal Energy, a solar company based in Fairfield. "If we want to remain a national leader and keep creating good, clean energy jobs in our state, we need our state officials to implement a strong plan to implement these new EPA standards."

Alliant Energy and the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives said Iowa utilities have been investing in wind energy, converting coal plants to natural gas and retiring inefficient coal-fired plants.

Reigstad said Alliant Energy has invested \$1.2 billion in wind generation and \$1.4 billion in air-quality improvements and spends about \$80 million annually on energy-efficiency programs.

MidAmerican Energy, based in Des Moines, is investing nearly \$2 billion to add 1,050 megawatts of wind energy by the end of 2015. The company has said its energy from wind will climb to 40 percent — the single largest source of power — while coal-powered energy will drop to 33 percent.

The utility said it is still reviewing the proposed rule and declined to comment.

### **Utility bills: More or less?**

Utilities said they can't yet predict the impact on consumer bills, while advocates predicted a small impact or even a cut.

Iowa residential consumers would pay \$103 million less annually — about \$76 per household — and businesses would pay \$134 million less annually, the Natural Resources Defense Council said.

The electric cooperatives association said it's difficult to adopt regulations without consumers seeing a price increase.

"The proposed rules released by the EPA will likely lead to increases in our member-owners monthly electric bills. The question is how much," said Marion Denger, the association president. Association members provide service to about 650,000 Iowans.

Among the electric cooperatives' main concerns: The costs to operate coal-fueled generation could be significantly increased. And the standard could potentially force "the premature shutdown" of some coal-fired electric-generating facilities.

Denger said the association supports "responsible environmental policies that balance the needs of the environment without significantly impacting power reliability or electric bills."

EPA expected the criticism. "Critics claim your energy bills will skyrocket. They're wrong," said Gina McCarthy, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Commission, in announcing the landmark proposal Monday. She said any small, short-term change — "think about the price of a gallon of milk a month — is dwarfed by huge benefits."

"Climate change, fueled by carbon pollution, supercharges risks not just to our health, but to our communities, our economy and our way of life," McCarthy said, adding that families

across the country are already coping with climate change that results in higher insurance premiums, property taxes and food prices.

## **What they're saying**

### **The Natural Resources Defense Council**

"Most Americans support curbing dangerous carbon pollution from power plants because it's the right thing to do. Cleaning up dirty power plants can be a bonanza for public health and a boon for energy efficiency jobs — and save Americans on their electric bills."

The group said limits on carbon pollution from power plants can save American households and business customers \$37.4 billion on their electric bills in 2020 while creating more than 274,000 jobs.

Iowa could see 2,500 more jobs with increased energy efficiency, and residential consumers would pay \$103 million less annually — about \$76 per household — and businesses would pay \$134 million less annually, according to a study by the group.

Iowa Interfaith Power & Light, a letter signed by nearly 400 faith leaders including 100 in Iowa.

"Carbon pollution is an environmental justice issue. Historically many power plants have been located near low-income neighborhoods, near communities of color, and in Midwest farm communities. These areas contribute much less to the problem yet are being hit the hardest in terms of health and climate impacts. Many of these citizens have pre-existing health conditions that make them more vulnerable to heat waves, reduced air quality, and other consequences of burning fossil fuels. These communities also have fewer resources to adapt to climate change and therefore mitigation — reducing the causes of climate change — is critical."

Ceres, a national investor group managing \$1 trillion in assets, with support from 128 businesses including Unilever and VF Corp., the apparel company whose brands include North Face

EPA's standard for existing power plants "represents a critical step in moving our country towards a clean energy economy. Our support is firmly grounded in economic reality. We know that tackling climate change is one of America's greatest economic opportunities of the 21st century.

"We are especially pleased to see an approach that catalyzes energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment. Clean energy policies are good for our environment, the economy, and companies. Increasingly, businesses rely on renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions to improve corporate performance and cut costs."

### **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

EPA's plans to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants will cost America's economy \$51 billion and lead to 224,000 fewer U.S. jobs on average every year through 2030, according to the group's study. "Americans deserve to have an accurate picture of the costs and benefits associated with the administration's plans to reduce carbon dioxide emissions through unprecedented and aggressive EPA regulations," said Karen Harbert, president and CEO of the Chamber's Energy Institute. "Our analysis shows that Americans will pay significantly more for electricity, see slower economic growth and fewer jobs, and have less disposable income, while a slight reduction in carbon emissions will be overwhelmed by global increases."

### **Climate change in Iowa**

Iowa and the Midwest can expect increasing heat, floods and drought, according to a White House report released last month. The changes are affecting life now in urban and rural areas.

### **Rural areas**

Climate disruptions to U.S. agricultural production — a \$330 billion industry annually — have increased in the past 40 years and are projected to increase over the next 25 years.

Farmers can expect longer growing seasons and improved yields from some crops, but also extreme weather events and increased stress due to weeds, disease and insect pests.

Climate change effects on agriculture will have consequences for food security, both in the U.S. and globally, through changes in crop yields and food prices, the report said.

### **Urban areas**

Residents in Iowa and Midwest cities could see greater climate issues. The report predicts "increased heat-wave intensity and frequency, increased humidity, degraded air quality and reduced water quality."

Cities' aging infrastructure are "particularly vulnerable to climate change-related flooding," the report said. Already, heavy downpours are contributing to "discharge of untreated sewage due to excess water in combined sewage-overflow systems."

### **U.S. greenhouse emission sources**

32 percent ...electricity production  
28 percent ...transportation  
20 percent ...industry  
10 percent ...commercial and residential  
10 percent ...agriculture

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### **What's next**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will collect comments for the next 120 days, holding four public hearings in Atlanta; Denver, Colo.; Pittsburgh; and Washington, D.C.

EPA won't finalize the proposed rule until June 2015. Then the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has one year and one month after that to work with stakeholders to develop the state plan.

Stakeholders would include the Iowa Utilities Board, utility leaders, the Iowa attorney general consumer advocate, environmental groups and members of the public, said Marnie Stein, a environmental specialist at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Stein said those meetings would be open to the public. The Iowa Environmental Protection Agency will be required to approve a plan and DNR will enforce it.

### **Iowa's carbon emissions goal**

Iowa is charged with reducing its carbon dioxide emissions 16 percent to 1,301 pounds per megawatt hours by 2030, under the proposal.

Iowa's energy mix  
62.3 percent ... Coal  
24.8 percent ... Wind  
7.7 percent ... Nuclear

3.4 percent... Natural gas  
1.4 percent ... Hydro  
Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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### **Grassley: Iowa, nation need more time to comment on EPA standard**

By Donnelle Eller

3:35 p.m. CDT June 2, 2014

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said Iowans need more time to comment on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule that existing U.S. power plants cut carbon emissions 30 percent by 2030.

"The proposal could have a huge effect on Iowans since so much of our energy comes from coal," said Grassley, who is one of 47 senators and other groups that successfully lobbied EPA for an extended comment period on the proposed rule.

The agency agreed to expand the 60-day comment period to 120 days.

"The EPA has an obligation to hear from everyone with an interest in this rule," Grassley said. "The Administration needs to understand the full impact of this regulation. Utility costs could go up for customers around the country."

EPA won't finalize the proposed rule until June 2015. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has one year and one month after that to work with stakeholders to develop the state plan.

Stakeholders would include the Iowa Utilities Board, utility leaders, the Iowa Attorney General consumer advocate, environmental groups and members of the public, said Marnie Stein, an environmental specialist senior at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Stein said those meetings would be open to the public and media.

The federal agency said it will accept comments for 120-days, holding four public hearings across the country -- Atlanta, Denver, Colo., Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C.